

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 18**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Shelley, Aroner, Baca,  
Bowen, Brown, Figueroa, Knox, Kuehl, Lempert, Mazzoni,  
Ortiz, Washington, and Wayne**

(Principal coauthor: Senator McPherson)

(Coauthors: Senators Karnette, Lee, O’Connell, Polanco,  
Solis, Vasconcellos, and Watson)

April 17, 1997

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 18—Relative to eliminating  
discrimination against women.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 18, as introduced, Shelley. Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

This measure would commend the efforts of the National  
Committee on the United Nations to promote the universal  
adoption of the United Nations Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women  
(CEDAW), would urge the United States Senate to ratify  
CEDAW, and would declare that the Assembly of the State of  
California shall work to ensure the elimination of  
discrimination against women and girls in the State of  
California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United Nations Commission on the  
2 Status of Women formulated a document entitled the

1 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of  
2 Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

3 WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly  
4 adopted the Convention, and opened it for signature in  
5 December 1979; and

6 WHEREAS, The Convention, sometimes called an  
7 international Bill of Rights for women, obligates those  
8 countries that have ratified or acceded to it to take all  
9 appropriate measures to ensure the full development and  
10 advancement of women in all spheres, including political,  
11 educational, employment, health care, economic, social,  
12 legal, marriage and family relations, as well as to modify  
13 the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and  
14 women to eliminate prejudice, customs, and all other  
15 practices based on the idea of the inferiority or  
16 superiority of either sex; and

17 WHEREAS, Fifty-two countries, including the United  
18 States, signed the Convention during the 1980  
19 Mid-Decade Conference for Women in Copenhagen,  
20 Denmark; and

21 WHEREAS, To date, 155 countries, representing over  
22 half the countries of the world, have now ratified or  
23 acceded to the Convention; and

24 WHEREAS, The United States has not yet ratified or  
25 acceded to the Convention; now, therefore, be it

26 *Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of*  
27 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of  
28 California commends the local, national, and  
29 international efforts of the National Committee on the  
30 United Nations to promote the universal adoption of the  
31 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All  
32 Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and urges the  
33 United States Senate to ratify CEDAW; and be it further

34 *Resolved,* That the Assembly and the Senate of the  
35 State of California shall work to ensure the elimination of  
36 discrimination against women and girls in the State of  
37 California, as they pursue the enjoyment of all civil,  
38 political, economic, and cultural rights, as expressed in  
39 the CEDAW treaty; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
2 transmit copies of this resolution to the President and  
3 Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the  
4 House of Representatives, and to each Senator and  
5 Representative from California in the Congress of the  
6 United States.

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